

(33) Milk using WPC

24.6g of WPC "SUNLACT N-5" (containing 34.4 % protein), manufactured by Taiyo Kagaku Co., Ltd., and 475.4mL of water were mixed to prepare a sample. 0 to 1.00 % of GNA with respect to the sample was mixed and dissolved in the sample and heated at 75°C for 10 minutes. The solution was cooled to obtain specimens. The specimens were subjected to the organoleptic test to evaluate reduction of the smell and improvement of the flavor of the WPC.

Table 33

Addition amount of GNA (%)	0	0.05	0.10	0.20	0.30	0.50	1.00
Evaluation results	0	+0.6	+0.7	+0.9	+1.3	+1.5	+1.7

As shown in Table 33, the addition of GNA reduced the smell and improved the flavor particular to the WPC.

Industrial Applicability

The masking agent containing a salt of gluconic acid according to the present invention is remarkably effective in reducing flavor and/or odor particular to an oral ingestible product.

CLAIMS

1. A masking agent comprising a nontoxic salt of gluconic acid as an active ingredient.
5
2. A masking agent according to claim 1 for masking odor of an oral ingestible product.
3. A masking agent according to claim 1 for masking flavor of
10 an oral ingestible product.
4. A masking agent according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the nontoxic salt of gluconic acid is an alkali metal salt or an alkali earth metal salt of gluconic acid.
15
5. A method for masking flavor and/or odor particular to an oral ingestible product by adding a masking agent according to any one of claims 1 to 4.

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

下記の氏名の発明者として、私は以下の通り宣言します。

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

私の住所、私書箱、国籍は下記の私の氏名の後に記載された通りです。

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

下記の名称の発明に関して請求範囲に記載され、特許出願している発明内容について、私が最初かつ唯一の発明者（下記の氏名が一つの場合）もしくは最初かつ共同発明者（下記の名称が複数の場合）であると信じています。

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled.

MASKING AGENT

上記発明の明細書は、

the specification of which

☐ 本書に添付されています。

☐ is attached hereto.

☐ ____月 ____日に提出され、米国出願番号または特許協定条

☒ was filed on February 9, 2000

約国際出願番号を ____ とし、

as United States Application Number or

(該当する場合) ____ に訂正されました。

PCT International Application Number

PCT/JP00/00733 and was amended on

____ (if applicable).

私は、特許請求範囲を含む上記訂正後の明細書を検討し、内容を理解していることをここに表明します。

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

私は、連邦規則法典第37編第1条56項に定義されるとおり、特許資格の有無について重要な情報を開示する義務があることを認めます。

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.